



## **The Florida House of Representatives**

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### **Proposed Committee Bill on Unemployment Compensation Passes House Economic Development & Tourism Subcommittee**

*PCB EDTS 11-01 to be heard in Finance & Tax Committee next*

**Tallahassee, Fla.** – The proposed committee bill on Unemployment Compensation (PCB EDTS 11-01) today passed the House Economic Development & Tourism Subcommittee and is set to be heard in the Finance & Tax Committee next.

“By passing the PCB on Unemployment Compensation out of subcommittee today, we are taking one step further in fundamentally altering the system to aid with re-employment rather than a system that merely provides unemployment compensation,” said Representative Doug Holder (R-Sarasota), chairman of the House Economic Development & Tourism Subcommittee. “This bill is designed to bring consistency and fairness to the unemployment system and to help re-employ individuals making a claim by requiring an initial skills review, the results of which will be communicated to the Agency for Workforce Innovation who will further assist with job skills and searches.”

“In order for the State of Florida to maintain a business friendly environment and stimulate economic growth, we must begin transitioning away from our current, outdated unemployment compensation system toward one that clarifies workplace expectations for employers and employees, and emphasizes training and workforce development,” said Representative Dorothy Hukill (R-Port Orange), chair of the House Economic Affairs Committee. “And not only does this bill aid in that transition, but it provides much-needed tax relief for Florida businesses.”

“I look forward to seeing this legislation progress through the committee process and ultimately end up on the floor for consideration by the full Florida House,” concluded Representative Hukill.

PCB EDTS 11-01 proposes changes to Florida's unemployment compensation system. Measures contained in the bill, include:

- Requiring Floridians filing for unemployment compensation to complete an initial skills review.
- Maintaining the maximum weekly benefit amount of \$275.
- Tying the number of available benefit weeks to the unemployment rate establishing a threshold wherein if the unemployment rate is nine percent or higher, the maximum number of weeks for unemployment compensation is 20. Should the unemployment rate reach or fall below five percent, the maximum number of weeks for unemployment compensation is 12. Bill language stipulates each 0.5 percent increment above five percent adds an additional week. This change will not affect the available Federal Tiers (which begin when state unemployment compensation benefits have been exhausted); a claimant will continue to receive the same weekly benefit amount although he or she may be in a particular Tier for a shorter period of time before moving to the next Tier.
- Modifying current statute regarding claimant, employer responsibility so that neither the claimant nor the employer are favored when determining eligibility for benefits.
- Providing tax relief to most employers beginning in 2011 by adjusting the benefit ratio calculation used as part of the formula for an employer's ultimate tax rate downward by 10 percent.

For the full text of PCB EDTS 11-01, please visit the [Florida House of Representatives website](#).

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